

THE LOYAL INDIANS.

NORTH-WEST REBELLION—SIGNS OF PRO-

THE REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL.

OTTAWA, March 3.

The report of the Department of Indian Affairs was presented this afternoon. The Superintendent-General remarks that the condition of Indian matters in the several Provinces has been generally satisfactory during the past year, and,

The same cannot be said of the North-west Territories as a whole, it is due to circumstances over which the Department had no control, that the Indians who revolted had no reason for doing so, in so far as their treatment was concerned, is sufficiently established by the concurrent testimony of all those connected with the management of the Indians in the North-West, is also by the fact that they had no intention of joining in the insurrection until messages reached them from the leaders of the half-breed insurgents, assuring them that great benefits in

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an Indian uprising, but, on the contrary, that they were one of the best of terms with the Indians and that the latter were working well and were quite content. The same good accounts were received just previous to the uprising from the other points at which the Indians were induced to act with the insurgent half-breeds. The Indians who revolted do not hold grievances in extenuation. On the contrary, they express regret for the part they took, and say they were led into it by the leader of the half-breed insurrection. Testimony is borne

the loyalty during the trying time of several of the most prominent chiefs and the bands represented by them whose reserves are situated in the districts affected by the rebellion. None of the Indians in the southern part of the district of Alberta took any part in the rebellion, notwithstanding that messages urging them strenuously to do so were constantly being received by them. The chiefs remained true to their allegiance, and their followers obeyed them by abstaining from any interference in the matter. The names of the chiefs of the Blackfoot, Blood, and Piigane were among those to be allowed to fight on behalf of the Crown against the insurgents in the district of Assiniboia, which

On its geographical position, was more readily reached from the Saskatchewan district by the emissaries of the rebels than other parts, the Indians were constantly besieged with messages from the half-breed insurrectionists urging them in the strongest terms to revolt and assist in the movement. With the exception of about twenty families, who were of the opinion that it was better to stay where they were, none of the Indians responded to the call, although they were naturally greatly excited by the messages received, as well as by seeing so many troops moving north, or all of them had to pass that way to the scene of the troubles, and a considerable force was also stationed in their vicinity. The rebels

and not only to make them more useful, but also to do close work, so that they would be mastered by the soldiers in the event of the insurgents being defeated, whether they had fought or not.

EDUCATION.

Notwithstanding the excitement incident to the rebellion, educational progress among the Indian children was not seriously retarded in the North-West Territories, as shown by seven new schools having been opened during the year, and the increase generally in the number of children attending the schools.

CONTENTED AND LOYAL.

In forwarding his annual report, the inspector for Manitoba and Keewatin comments upon the general prosperity and contentment prevailing

among the Indians. His remarks on this head are as follows:—"In all my interviews with the bands visited during the year no complaint of any oppression has been made to me concerning the manner in which the payments for their annuities are made. In reference to the quantity or quality of the various supplies furnished them, but on the contrary they frequently express their gratitude to the Government for so faithfully carrying out the provisions of the laws. Their loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen is so deeply rooted in their affections that neither the signal fires of rebellion nor the persistent importunities of accredited messengers from the insurgents with promises of tobacco to smother the flames of fidelity have been able to divert them from the bloody trail of the warpath, could influence them in alienating their allegiance from their beloved Sovereign, whom they profoundly

— THE POPULATION.

The total Indian population is placed at 129,479, of whom 38,479 are in British Columbia, 31,354 in Manitoba and the North-West, 17,094 in Ontario and 12,135 in Quebec.

— CANADIAN NEWS.

DIPHTHERIA is reported to be prevalent in the vicinity of Marag.

HAY IS SCARCER at Beebe Plain, and is selling at \$12 a ton in the barn.

THE COUNTRY ROADS about Sherbrooke are very badly broken.

A CHORAL SOCIETY has been formed at Waterville, and exercises in hymn tunes.

THE "MOCK PARLIAMENT" at Stanstead Plains holds most successful meetings.

THE WHARF at East Potton is, it is understood, to be fixed up in as good shape as any on the lake.

MIGRATION.—A special party will leave Sherbrooke on Wednesday, March 10th, for British Columbia.

A GOLD WATCH AND CHAIN has been donated to the Rev. F. A. Read, of Cookshire. Mr.

A LECTURE ON TEMPERANCE was given to a very large audience in St. Luke's Church, Waterloo, by the Rev. Dean Carmichael, of Montreal, a few days ago.

A NEW SLEIGH was recently presented to the Rev. J. W. Garland, of South Stukely, by the Silver Valley Dorcas Society. Last November this society gave Mr. Garland a valuable robe.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 10. — A meeting of the Albany branch of the S. A. C. was held last evening with unequalled success. The rev. Curs Aubry frowns upon the association. — *St. John's News.*

ONTARIO.

A STEAM LAUNDRY is talked of for Port Hope.

LUNATICS and IMBECILES form twenty-five per cent. of the convict population of Kingston Penitentiary.

A MATCH FACTORY is starting in the village of Elmwood, and a grist mill will be erected there early in the spring.

ONTARIO'S DRUNKENNESS appears to be on the decline, the commitments to the gaols for that offence being 964 less during 1885 than 1884.

A BIG LOG — Mr. Geo. Button, of Logan, took in to Monken a big load of saw logs the other day. The number of feet it contained was 1,876.

A MANSE BURNED. — A few days ago the Manse at Avonton, belonging to the Presbyterian congregation, was totally destroyed by

A SINGULAR AND PAINFUL ACCIDENT happened one day last fall to Thomas Anderson, a well-to-do farmer of Greenbush. The horse ran away from the stable, and, in his effort to stop him, the farmer and throwing Mr. Anderson out on his head and shoulders, causing such injuries that affected his hearing and he has never heard a word since.

WYOMING. HIS WEIGHTED WELL.—Mr. Daniel Dey recently purchased a hide on the Napawan market which had been rolled up for convenience in handling. In examining his purchase some time afterward, Mr. Dey discovered some stones and an old ploughshare folded inside, weighing about fifteen pounds in all.

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ALL IN ADVANCE.

Daily Witness		\$2.00
Weekly Witness		1.00
Northern Messenger (single copy)		.25
" " 10 copies to one address		2.50
" " 35 " " "		6.00
" " 50 " " "		11.50
" " 100 " " "		22.00
Weekly Messenger		.50

At the above rates sent free of postage to any part of the Dominion, United States and Great Britain.

ADVERTISING RATES.

WEEKLY WITNESS.—General advertisements, 50¢ per line per insertion, including extra and large type. One-third of above when ad in our small type. Contract Rates: 1 year, \$7.50 per line; 6 months, \$4 per line; 3 months, \$2.50 per line.

DAILY WITNESS.—The per line per insertion. CUTS OF LARGE TYPE, double rates. Annual contracts on favorable terms. "Employment" notices, 25¢ per insertion, up to 25 words. "Situations Vacant," 25¢ per insertion, up to 25 words. Money must accompany notices. Births and Deaths, 25¢ per insertion; Marriages, 50¢. (These must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender.)

Contracts payable quarterly in advance. Five is the minimum number of lines for which an advertisement is charged.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—When remitting to particular to give the correct post office address, and the Province or State, and either register your letter, or procure a post office order (in all cases we prefer the latter, as it protects the sender and ourselves). Post office orders can be obtained at the following rates: \$1 to \$4, 2¢, and \$4 to \$10, 5¢. When stamps are sent to make up a remittance, the only denominations that are of any use to us are 1-cent and 3-cent. Subscribers in the United States can remit by P. O. order on Boston's Point, N. Y. State. When wishing to have your address changed from one post office to another it is necessary to give the old address as well as the new. If this is not done such change cannot be made. Address all letters concerning subscriptions to JOHN DONAGALL & SONS, "The Witness," Montreal.

ISSUED LAST WEEK.

Number copies of WEEKLY WITNESS		34,600
" " DAILY WITNESS		83,615
" " MESSENGER		41,613
Total		159,828

The Witness.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1886.

LORD ABERDEEN.

It is rather curious that, having made up his mind to grant Ireland some measure at least of Home Rule, Mr. Gladstone did not take what was obviously the first step in that direction, namely, the appointment of an Irishman to the office of Viceroy. The Viceroy of Ireland, unlike our Governor-General, possesses real power, as he is the head and real director of the administration of local affairs in Ireland. It rests with him, largely, whether his administration will be based on conciliation or on coercion, that is, so far as it rests upon the Government at all, for the people of Ireland have compelled one Liberal Viceroy after another to turn from conciliation to coercion. Lord Spencer began with the former and ended with the latter, and he is now convinced that no Englishman can administer English laws in Ireland except by coercion, and that rather than rule by coercion as he had to do, it would be better to grant Home Rule and allow the Irish a trial at least of governing themselves. His conversion to Home Rule has amazed all England. The Queen is said to have put the question solemnly to him, Can you reconcile the granting of Home Rule to Ireland with your conscience, and his answer is said to have been so positive and forcible as to have, in some degree, convinced the Queen herself. Perhaps the difficulty of appointing an Irishman to find a suitable man though able Irish men are not usually scarce. There is Lord Dufferin, of course, but he is needed everywhere and he could not very well be brought from India with the Afghan and Burmese matters not finally settled. And, besides, Lord Dufferin is more of an ancient Tory than of a modern Nationalist in his views on Irish questions. If a statesman from the larger island had to be appointed, perhaps no better selection could have been made than that of Lord Aberdeen. The cable despatches which announced his appointment stated that his only qualification was that he was a close friend of Mr. Gladstone. England was represented as being in a state of dismay over the selection. It turns out that Lord Aberdeen is one of those men who have done really fine work and have proved themselves equal to great and difficult tasks without receiving much public recognition. It is said that the fact that he is a Peer who is a Presbyterian, and a religious man, is regarded by the aristocracy of England as all the evidence that is necessary to prove that he is incompetent. These "qualities," it seems, "disqualify" a man for statesmanship or for success in politics, though why they should is not stated; at any rate they have not rendered Lord Aberdeen unsuccessful in his career so far. It is stated that, with the single exception of Lord Rosebery, no Scotch peer stands so high or exerts so great an influence in Scotland as Lord Aberdeen. He has been for five years in succession Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner to the Church of Scotland, and as such he has had to take up his residence in Holyrood Palace and preside over the General Assembly. It is said that that office in the hands of other commissioners was without influence, and was, so far as the social aspect of it was concerned, a burden to the holder and a weariness to those he entertained in a sort of state way. Lord Aberdeen has made Holyrood Palace a centre of Scottish social and ecclesiastical life, he has extended the influence and hospitality of the office first from established Presbyterianism to all sections of religious people, and next to civic dignitaries. Art, science and literature were then drawn to it. A man who could receive an office and restore its influence both social and religious as he has done as the Queen's representative to the Established Church of Scotland, who could win for it the recognition and regard of all religious people, is not unlikely to make a successful reformer and ruler at Dublin Castle. Perhaps the extraordinarily warm reception he has already had on one or two occasions from the Mansion House people of Dublin, who are generally the enemies of the Castle, may be the result of his genius for conciliation. It may, perhaps, be owing to the reputation which he brought with him

from Scotland of being a model landlord. His "tenantry are loud in his praise," and he has never had any trouble with them. Some years ago he began the work of raising their condition both materially and morally, and he has been wonderfully successful. A few years ago he gave up to them a half year's rent, amounting to about \$75,000, to enable them to better their condition, and he has time and again lowered their rents. He has inaugurated a system which has rapidly brought about improved dwellings and holdings for his tenants, and the moral condition of the laborers, which was described as deplorable, was, by his exertions, greatly raised throughout Aberdeenshire. It is not to be expected that Lord Aberdeen can do for Ireland what he has done for Aberdeenshire, or for the Viceroy of Ireland what he has done for the office of Her Majesty's Commissioner to the Established Church of Scotland, for no man could do that, but a man who has done so much will do all that can be done.

THE LOSS OF THE "OREGON."

The loss of the "Oregon" will, we suppose, be thoroughly investigated. Though not one life has yet been proved to have been lost as a direct result of the accident yet nearly one thousand lives were imperilled and hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property has been destroyed. There is, to the public mind at least, a mystery surrounding the circumstances of the loss, a doubt as to the real cause of the accident which will never be publicly cleared up unless by a thorough official enquiry. The officers of the vessel appear to be satisfied that a collision with a three-masted schooner actually took place, but experienced mariners have not been satisfied by the evidence so far made public—which includes the report of the master of the ship as to the loss—that a schooner was really seen. People in New York at least, are in a panic through fear that dynamite is being successfully used by enemies of England and of her commerce, to the danger of American lives and American property. Some have, through a false story, become assured that a wrecked vessel lies in the ocean off Long Island and that her masts have wrecked the "Oregon" and will wreck other vessels. The officers' account is probably correct and the immediate disappearance of the schooner is easily accounted for, as she would after a collision which sunk an iron steamship go down so quickly that her crew, even those who were on deck, would not have time to get away from her. Even if any were left swimming around the place where the collision took place, they were quickly left far astern by the steamship. The public should, however, be satisfied of the cause of the accident by a thorough investigation. There are, moreover, other matters which need investigation. It is impossible for a steamship which carries nine or ten hundred people to carry more boats than will accommodate one fifth of the number in case of an accident compelling the immediate abandonment of the vessel? Is it not possible for a steamship to carry rafts or boats which will at least float the whole number for a few hours? Is the compartment system a total failure or was its failure in this instance a result of criminal neglect? This vessel was divided into ten compartments. Were all the doors of the compartments secured or were they open? The "Arizona," which ran into an iceberg and smashed her bow completely, got into St. John's, Nfld., without trouble, though slowly, with her forward compartment of course full of water and open to the sea. The first partition, in her case, had no opening or door to be left wide open and she was safe. Are the compartments of no use when a vessel is struck amidships? If that is the case it is well to know it. One of the most extraordinary facts connected with the loss of the vessel is that although she was passed within easy signalling distance by other vessels on a clear night she could not communicate to them or convince them of her deadly peril. It is inconceivable that steamship masters anxious to save time could be such fiends as not to heed her signals. We are given to understand that there is no effective system of signals for night service. If a vessel is in "deadly peril" the signal for assistance is a flag at the peak or the top mast with the union down. Such a signal is unavailing on the clearest night, not to speak of pitch dark one. There is a minute gun signal; but many vessels do not carry a gun capable of making such a signal heard at a great distance, and when a vessel passes another, even if the distance be not great, they are not long enough within hearing distance to make out a series of minute reports. The "Oregon" had, apparently, only the usual toy gun, which, according to one passenger, could not be heard twenty rods distant; her flag signals were not effective, and any other signals attempted were regarded by passing steamers as mere greetings. The sister vessel of the "Oregon," which belongs to the same company, passed her during her distress, apparently discovered enough of her signals to know they were intended as a communication to her, but only accepted them as a sort of cheery goodspeed, which she answered with an illumination. An unmistakable night signal of "deadly peril" could be easily devised by means of rockets. This is one of the matters which an investigation should enquire into and deal with.

AN EXPORT DUTY CLAUSE.

The Ways and Means Committee of the United States Congress have adopted an amendment to the Morrion Bill moved by a gentleman from Detroit, the effect of which is that if any export duty is levied by any country upon any article by that Bill placed upon the free list, then the Bill will be inoperative as far as that country is concerned. There can be but one motive for such a clause as this. From the nature of the Bill as originally framed it was evident that its principal object was the creation of a species of reciprocity treaty with Canada. With the exception of sugar, the chief reductions of the tariff, and all the important additions to the free list were on Canadian products imported by the United States or American products used by Canada. The clause of the National Policy binding our Government to reduce the Canadian tariff step by step, as the Americans reduce theirs, makes the act double acting, and a double reason was therefore given for ac-

quiescence to the measure. The lumber interest of the State of Michigan was, as a matter of course, strongly interested in preserving the duty on lumber intact. Every stick of timber in the limits of the operators is increased in value at present by the amount of that duty. This clause was passed, however, in the interest of the Western farmer, and to prevent the lumber interest uniting with the sugar and iron interest to wreck the Bill at a future stage the export duty amendment proposed by that amendment has been accepted. The Alpena and Saginaw saw millers are now making preparations to supply their mills with Canadian logs from the Georgian Bay limits in spite of the export duty of one dollar a thousand levied upon pine logs. To secure the abolition of this duty and the removal of the danger of an increase will be a greater boon to the Michigan lumbermen than the continuance of the American duty on lumber.

THE AMPLE PROTECTION OF THE LAW.

The Tate libel suit against the *Globe* is a ghastly commentary on Mr. Justice Ramsay's latest *obiter dictum*, to wit, that girls need no special protection, and that societies organized for that purpose are to be regarded in the light of nuisances, needing to be abated rather than otherwise. That learned judge, however, neglected to say that girls were protected by law, provided always that they were rich, while the working girl who has to leave home to earn her living, or the girl who is orphaned and poor is left by the law an open prey. One George Tate, feeling aggrieved at some comments made on his case by the *Globe*, laid against him for abduction of Eva Kenny, a child of the age of sixteen, brought suit against that paper for \$10,000, and the case, which was tried before Mr. Justice Galt and a special jury, at Brimpton, on Tuesday last, resulted in a prompt verdict in favor of the newspaper. In his charge to the jury the Judge said: "It was in Tate's store and while she was in his employment he had seduced her. He had actually diseased her. He had induced her to go to Toronto. * * * He went for her to Toronto where she was employed in the Armoury Hotel. * * * He took her to a house of ill fame in Toronto and left her there. Subsequently she returned to Brimpton again to take her place in the tailor's shop when—According to her account he induced her a second time 'to go to Toronto; * * * she went, and took up her residence at a house of ill fame.' On the trial in Toronto, where these facts were put in evidence, the defence was not entered upon, inasmuch as it was shown that in doing all this the man Tate would have been within his legal rights. The child was not under the age of twelve years, was not an heiress, was not taken out of the possession of her father, was not inveigled by false pretence to a house of ill fame; and moreover the man Tate (or any one else for that matter) might betray the trust reposed in him by the child's parents with perfect impunity. In marked contrast with all this is the careful provision made by the Act 32-33 Vic., cap. 20, sec. 54, for the protection of the rich. Had Tate merely taken away, with evil intent, an heiress from her home to Toronto, with her consent, as he did the child Eva, and did nothing else to her but taken her away, he would have been guilty of felony if she were under twenty-one. In Eva's case, as already stated, it was admitted that he was within his rights. The public would like to know what the new Minister of Justice thinks of all this, and what he means to do about it.

THE RAILWAY PROBLEM.

Mr. Dalton McCarthy has again introduced to Parliament his bill providing for the establishment of a court of railway commissioners, with authority and power to exercise a sort of supervision over the railways of Canada, and, by seeing to the administration of the law, protect the rights of the people. The Parliament of Canada has always been much more ready to give monopoly privileges to railways than to attempt to curtail those naturally engendered by the nature of these enterprises. The influence which the two great railway companies which divide Canada amicably between them have in the house at the present time, is too great to allow of the hope that Mr. McCarthy's measure will pass, but it should not this time be allowed to be quashed without some strong expression of public opinion. The railway problem in America has somewhat the same status as the land question in Great Britain. From its very nature a railway is, to a great extent, a monopoly. When the railway system of Canada was in its infancy it was believed that a safeguard for the people would be found in competition between independent corporations, and in Western Ontario, especially, large sums of money were spent by communities in securing competing lines. The result of this experiment is that with one or two exceptions, all these roads have become absorbed into one or other of the two great corporations, the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Companies. Experience, both in the United States and Canada, has taught that while the large communities which have competing lines reap a large advantage, even where combinations and pools have been formed, the numerous small communities which are not at competing points are compelled to pay rates high enough to compensate where loss has been incurred by the companies on through traffic between competing points. Not only are discriminative rates, as between places, charged but preferential rates as between individuals. A railway should not, any more than a public gravel road or any other highway, be made a means of enriching one community at the expense of another, or one individual at the expense of another. If the public roads were under the control of private corporations as free from real supervision as are railway companies, discriminative and preferential tolls would be imposed until the public rebelled. Yet the railway beds are public highways much the same as the roads. Attention has lately been called by the action of the Board of Trade to the injury done the trade of Montreal by the unfair discrimination caused by through rates. The same state of affairs could be shown to exist in the case of every way point on a trunk line. This evil can in no

way be amended; it is in fact increased by competition. Yet competition cannot be dispensed with. Where competition is dispensed with, the railway unchecked by rivalry is the dictator of the whole district of which it is by law supposed to be the common carrier. The failure of competition to meet the case suggests the need for some method by which the commonwealth shall be served, not crushed, by these corporations. That is, in fact, the great railway problem of the present day. In order that public opinion should be awakened in regard to the matter, a greater knowledge of the present state of affairs is necessary. Owing to the fact that but few members of the community are large shippers by rail, few know the evils wrought in various ways by unfair discriminations. If, as is probable, Mr. McCarthy cannot carry his measure this session, a commission to examine into the matter might be a wise compromise.

THE MAGNIFICENT SPEECH OF Mr. Wilfred Laurier will be remembered throughout our history and quoted a thousand times in testimony of Canadian loyalty. We do not doubt the genuineness of his loyalty, notwithstanding the ludicrous contrast drawn by Mr. Caron between Mr. Laurier's vaunt that he would have shouldered a musket himself at Batoche and his oath on entering the Privy Council, promising, without qualification, mental evasion, or secret reservation, to make known to Her Majesty, and to defend her against all such conspiracies against her power. Mr. Laurier touched but hardly met the weak point of all the appeals made on behalf of Riel. The feeling has been general, and we think well founded, that the national cry raised on behalf of the Metis was due to their rebellion rather than to their wrongs. We have seen French Metis at our own door, the half-breeds at Oka, suffering wrongs quite as grievous, to say the least, as any recorded of the North-West Metis. The latter suffered only from neglect, the former from active and determined persecution, extending over long years, including frequent imprisonment for fictitious misdeemeanors. The wrongs of the latter have been the theme of almost the whole English press. The French-Canadian press had not a single voice on behalf of the Oka's, but a hundred in sympathy with their persecutors. Where is the difference? Let our good friends think it out. We have no doubt of the complete honesty with which Mr. Laurier espouses the cause. It affords sufficient ground on which to base an honest opposition to Government. But we have equally no doubt of the dishonesty of purpose with which certain clever men, seeing an opportunity to set the Orange and Blues at loggerheads, raised the mischievous cry of nationality for no other purpose than to embarrass in its extremity a Government to which they were opposed.

ON THE VERY EVE OF Mr. Gladstone's announcement of his scheme, it seems almost idle for the press to discuss, as it is doing, what must be only rumors with regard to it. Able writers, however, assume that they have in these rumors the material of the coming measure. A principal feature of it is the purchase of Irish lands for a hundred million pounds, and apportioning them to the peasantry. Mr. Gladstone's aim is supposed to be to use English money for this purpose in the hope of recovering its instalments from the occupiers, the administration of this measure being left to an Irish Parliament. Some Ministers, who differ with him, are supposed to recommend that the Irish Parliament be created first, and that the purchase of the land be left to it under security that the payment shall be adequate. We can hardly imagine Mr. Gladstone's mind to go so far astray as to think that such an investment would ever return to the public purse whether national or imperial. All facts are against it. We could point out cases here in Canada where large sums were advanced to immigrants to establish them on farms in the hope that they would pay back not only the advances but something for their land. In such cases the settlers no sooner have votes but they send every member they elect to Parliament pledged to demand of Government the remittance of these claims as a condition of support. Hardly any argument could be used in such a case that would be stronger in the case of the Irish peasantry, in whose minds there is an ingrained belief that the lands do not belong to the landlords but to them. They would have no objection to the English Government that gave them to the landlords paying the landlords for them, but never in the world will they pay any government for lands that they consider their own.

A GREAT DEFICIT was the result of our national book-keeping last year, and there will be a much greater one this year. The Government organs estimate it at three millions, and the Opposition organs at seven or eight millions of dollars. The difference arises out of the fact that the Government organs do not add to the year's expenditure any part of the cost of the North-West campaign, while the Opposition organs add a large part of it. It must be provided for all the same, and the general opinion was that the Government would re-impose the duties on tea and coffee and increase those on spirits and tobacco. Accordingly a great deal of tea has been imported and a great deal of liquor and tobacco taken out of bond in anticipation of these extra duties. Now the Government organs, in foreshadowing the Budget, which is ready to be brought down, declare that additional taxation or the imposition of new duties is not contemplated in it. The Government will spread the expenditure upon the campaign over a term of years, and will hope for an increase of revenue, which will enable them by economy to meet it. The general elections are probably not far off and the Government naturally dislikes to face the necessity for new taxation.

THE TWELVE HUNDRED POUNDS for medals to the Canadian volunteers who put down the North-West rebellion was voted by the Imperial Parliament with a marked lack of enthusiasm. The strongest reason given in its behalf was that the medals had been asked for by the Canadian Government, and the refusal of them would be open to misinterpretation in Canada. Canada put down her own rebellion herself and would doubtless have paid for the medals herself had not her Government naturally believed that a royal medal would

be a much more valued honor, and that it would give to the Imperial Government a very special pleasure to have an opportunity to give such formal expression to the unity of the empire. The best argument used against the item was that it was not desirable to commemorate a civil war. The suggestion is made that a noble thing to do with this medal would be to give it or the value of it to help half-breed families left destitute by the war. A medal so redeemed would not be a memorial of ill-will and could be worn with a proper pride.

SIR CHARLES DILKE's friends, who believe in his innocence and defend him with their honest and brave assertions of it, admit that he made a fearful blunder in not going into the witness box. They defend him on the ground that he reluctantly followed the advice of his two eminent counsel, and of his greatest and closest political friend. If this is the fact and if Sir Charles is convinced of their mistake and wishes to vindicate his honor, the way is perfectly clear for him to do so. He can immediately, or at any time during the next six months, have the case brought before the courts and reopened by simple request to the Queen's proctor to intervene. The decree of the court is not made absolute for six months after it is given. Sir Charles had a right to ask his friends to suspend judgment until he had defended himself in court; he has no right to ask them to do so any longer if he determines to offer no defence.

THERE SEEMS NEVER to be lacking among men an inward sense of right, which, however long it may sleep, is sure to assert itself whenever wrongdoing goes very far. It seems all in vain to preach against the fallacies of false political economy. Even honest injustice can hardly fail, however, to give way to excesses which expose its mistakes more than a thousand sermons could do. The expulsion of the Chinese on the Pacific slope is only the last step in the course which is begun when we lay special burdens upon them. But the spectacle of men, living peaceably by honest industry, being suddenly driven from their trades and their homes, because of no fault of theirs, has, it seems, proved more than the respectable citizens of Portland in Oregon could stand, and they have passed a resolution undertaking to defend human liberty with their money, and, if necessary, with their lives.

THE LEGISLATIVE HALLS OF New Jersey have, for some time past, been the scene of a furious struggle between the railways that have now an access to the Harbor of New York, and the Baltimore and Ohio which is striving to obtain this end. The arrangement entered into between the Staten Island rapid transit road and the Baltimore and Ohio which attracted so much attention last fall, depends upon a bridge across the Arthur Kill. An application was made to Congress on the one hand for a right to build a bridge, and on the other the Legislature of New Jersey passed a measure obstructing the building thereof. The Governor of New Jersey took part in the struggle by vetoing the bill, and the Legislature have now passed it over his veto. The whole fight is between the railway companies, and if the public have any interest in it, it is upon the side of the bridge builders.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing from Newboro, Ontario, urges universal suffrage on the score that there would with universal suffrage be no further difficulty as to who should be on the voters' lists, and there would be no need of the machinery expensive, alike to Government and to the citizens, of framing those lists. We agree with him that the new system is complicated, and that we fear with mischievous intent. There need, however, be no expense to the voter in getting his name on the roll. Universal suffrage would not remove the evil. They have universal suffrage in the United States as far as grown men are concerned, but they have to have voters' lists there as well as here, and probably quite as much difficulty in determining whether a man has a right to vote at a given place as we have.

IN SPITE OF the disaffected Blues the Government is evidently strong on the Riel question, and it uses its strength to force the issue prematurely. It was far to ask that all available light be thrown upon a question on which at least the Reform members will be held by their constituents to strict account. If the Government did not secure the springing of it on the House before the papers, some of which have been demanded since the beginning of the previous session, were brought down, it has certainly adopted the policy of forcing a direct vote upon Mr. Laurier's motion, while the papers are still withheld. This seems to imply that the Government do not think that further information would strengthen their case. The Minister of Justice says that even all the matter immediately connected with the condemnation and execution of Riel is not yet down.

THE VOTE ON THE RIEL QUESTION is to be a go-as-you-please one for the Liberal party. Many of the English members will vote for the motion, very much to the surprise of those who thought it would be certain political death for an Ontario Liberal to display any sympathy for the half-breeds. Mr. Cameron, of Huron, made an out-and-out speech against the execution, which he termed a judicial murder. Mr. Blake, after a careful review of the whole matter, declares "that he is unable to differ from the view that this 'execution' should not have been allowed to 'take place.'" While believing that the vote was an impertinent one for him, a bad party move, he still holding the views he did would support the motion. There are English Liberals in Quebec, though their number certainly is not large, who condemn the execution of Riel.

A "SYMPATHIZER" writes to accuse the *Witness* of not denouncing with sufficient frequency the laxity of the laws which permit fatal accidents on our railways. We plead guilty; but hopeless work is weary work. The license to kill enjoyed by our great corporations is accepted as a matter of course. Canada is declared by our correspondent to be behind all other countries in her legislation on the subject. But who is going to wake up Parliament so long as it is cheaper to supply members with passes and pay occasional damages to claimants strong enough to carry

their claims through the courts than to provide automatic brakes and couplings and make crossings off the level; and who is going to make a coroner effectually investigate a railway case.

THERE IS ALWAYS a strong disposition manifested, when a vessel comes to grief, to arraign her officers before the bar of public opinion, and condemn them upon the mere fact of the disaster. This is most unfair. In the first place, there is a limit to what man can do, and in the case of an accident at sea none but seamen are qualified to judge whether that point has been reached. In the second place, the master and officers of a British ship are, from the time their ship is cast away, in the position of a person committed for trial. Until the official investigation into the cause of a wreck, upon which the professional life of the officers depends is over, it is not right to pronounce an opinion. It is simply lynch law to try a ship's officers in an off-hand way and pronounce adverse judgments upon them.

THE WRITER in the *Hamilton Spectator*, who has bitterly and persistently opposed the proposition that the Government should assume the burden of the Lake St. Peter Channel debt, was one of the delegation from Hamilton which joined in the prayer to Government for the freedom of the St. Lawrence route. He had his say upon that portion of the question. The Hon. Mr. Pope's reply to the whole deputation must have satisfied him of the futility of further opposition. The Minister of Railways and Canals not only declared in favor of the assumption by the Government of the burden of the debt, but repeated his declaration, as if to emphasize the fact that the Government's policy on that point was fixed. The trouble is that the Government is not willing to do anything in the way of carrying out that policy.

A VERY DISTRESSING PICTURE of hundreds of able-bodied workmen struggling for work at the Dock Gates, in London, is the frontispiece of a pamphlet entitled "Here and There," devoted to the work of the Self-help Emigration Society. The cheerful side of the picture is found on turning over the pages of the pamphlet and reading letter after letter from men who had been enabled, by the good offices of the Society, to secure passage to Canada and Australia, and who have, almost from the day they landed, got work at wages that delighted them. The Rev. R. MacKay, formerly of Kingston, is Secretary of this Society, which is one of very many doing a similar work, and carried on by men who are fully informed as to what kind of immigrants the colonies can absorb.

THE SENATE OF NEW YORK, as represented by the Senate thereof, is organizing for what in Canada would be called a raid for better terms. The Senate has adopted a resolution declaring that as long as the State controls the Erie Canal it shall be free, and approving of a bill now before Congress, the object of which is to secure the enlargement of the canal, upon the condition that the Federal treasury bears all the expense of the proposed improvement. The object of this resolution is apparently to procure the expenditure of a large sum of money by the United States upon this canal, without handing over the ownership or control of the work.

UPON THE STATUTE BOOKS OF Ontario there is a law providing for the establishment of legal boards of arbitration, to settle, as far as possible, all matters in dispute between employees and employers. This law has been inoperative, not as it would seem because of any serious defect in the statute, but because having been passed by the House of Assembly without the preliminary agonies of a constitutional agitation to bring it about, the working men were unaware of its existence. No trades' union could ask for a fuller recognition of the principle aimed at by their organization than this Act, and, in Ontario at least, the Knights of Labor should not find it necessary to order strikes.

THE CLAUSE OF the Morrison Tariff Bill, putting lumber upon the free list, has been passed by the Committee of Ways and Means on a strictly party vote, the Republicans voting solidly against it. The farmers of the United States are the people chiefly interested in this addition to the free list, but as an indication of how other claims will be treated, it is of some importance to Canadians. The votes of the Ways and Means Committee on the clauses freeing coal, iron-ore, salt, corn, stone, and half-a-dozen other articles, will be as important to Canadians as if given in Ottawa.

WILLIAM H. JACKSON, Riel's private secretary, may thank his stars that he was found in Riel's prison, and that he was indisputably insane when caught. He is now doing his best to make fools of those who spared him, and of all who showed any sympathy with him. How different is his hair-brained treason from the peaceable effort of honest (Gabriel) Dumont to earn his living in the land of his exile!

FRANCE has at length bravely faced her overhanging mountain of debt which threatens soon to crush her. She has not only funded her floating debts, but has in the same measure provided against their increase. That provision, if effective, will put a painful check on a thousand expenditures, for which the filial sons of France have been in the habit of looking to their Government whenever their necessities or opportunities have prompted an appeal in that direction.

MICHAEL DAVITT, in demanding for Ireland all the functions of a separate nation except paying for her own defence, claims for that country the very position which the colonies now occupy, and a vast deal more independence than any of the United States enjoys or ever will enjoy as long as it remains in the Union—more, indeed, than is compatible with even a federal system.

ANOTHER TRIUMPH FOR MR. STRAID is the passage of a motion, without a question or a murmur, for the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act which has hitherto withstood the attacks of moralists for twenty years, although it has been suspended for three years back at the instance of the same member, the Right Honorable James Stansfeld, who has now moved for its suppression.

THERE DOES NOT seem to be room between Seylla and Charybdis for the passage of Mr. Gladstone's political fleet. On the extreme right of the right wing Lord Hartington and Mr. Goschen have been brought to grief, and now on the extreme left Messrs. Chamberlain and Trevelyan are likely to be stranded. Mr. Gladstone may, however, get through safely.

IT WAS SUPPOSED to be Sir John Macdonald who was going to be perplexed by the Riel trouble in Parliament. *Grip* has a cartoon very cleverly representing the present situation. Sir John is represented with a wonderful wink, pulling the wires of a little orator named Landry, who is raging away at Mr. Blake, demanding yes or no from him.

OUR READERS will be glad to notice in this week's issue the commencement of a new story, by the author of "How Roy Went West." This story, entitled, "One More Chance," thoroughly maintains the reputation of that charming and skilful writer.

THE PRIZE STORIES.

TO BE PUBLISHED IN A SPECIAL ENLARGED ISSUE OF THE "WEEKLY WITNESS."

The task of judging between a number of stories on the same subject is a delicate one. A great number of qualities have to be considered, and these qualities are found in all sorts of combinations. Taking all things into consideration, and weighing carefully the respective merits of the stories recently received by us in competition, the judges decide the following to occupy the first places in the three series:—

"The Foster Mother"—H. G. C. Sawyer, Little Barre, Que. "No Body Asked You"—Mary Jane Luefield, Dunlop, Ont.

Each of the above will receive a prize of \$20 on sending a written application, accompanied by a certificate of age (which should be signed by the minister) and a guarantee that the story is the bona fide work of the applicant.

These three stories will be published together in full in the *Weekly Witness* of April 7th. That number will be a special one. Every copy will include an extra supplement, containing articles written specially for the *Witness* by gentlemen of the highest capacity, sketching the progress of their different parts of the Dominion in "these forty years," since the foundation of the *Witness*. Our readers should ask that any new subscriptions which they get up and send before the issue of April 7th, as it will be a pity for any subscriber to miss receiving a copy.

THE PRIZE LIST.

We are at last able to announce the names of prize-winners in the recent competition. The highest eleven amounts in new subscriptions for the *Weekly or Daily Witness*, during the period stated, and the prizes won by these eleven, are as follows:—

Amount Prize.	
1st, Wm. T. Newcomb, Avonport, N.S.	\$24.50
2nd, Mrs. McTavish, North Bruce, Ont.	22.10
3rd, J. H. McTavish, North Bruce, Ont.	20.10
4th, Bella Taylor, Pakenham, Ont.	20.00
5th, G. E. Jollymore, Mill Cove, N.S.	19.25
6th, John McEwan, Kirkfield, Ont.	18.00
7th, Wm. Moir, Wick, Ont.	14.70
8th, Mrs. H. C. Cameron, Wye, Ont.	12.50
9th, John McEwan, Paris, Ont.	11.50
10th, J. R. Phillips, Fergus, Ont.	11.00
11th, Mat. Fisher, Somerset, King's Co., N.S.	11.00

Who will be allowed for any challenges or corrections of this list to reach us. The prizes will then be sent on written application of the respective winners.

"OUR AMUSEMENTS."

The second of our series of Anniversary Prizes is now open for competition. The conditions are the same as for that on "Saving Labor at the Farm-house"; namely, the prize (TWENTY DOLLARS in cash) will be given for the best original contribution (to be judged according to its practical value and not its literary style) sent in by a subscriber to the *Witness*. The subject is "OUR AMUSEMENTS." No contribution must be over a column long, or must be written on more than one side of the paper.

This competition will close on the 1st of May next. The winning essay will be published in the *Witness*, and extracts from others will also be published.

THE THIRD COMPETITION.

A competition for the third Anniversary Prize will be opened on the close of the second; and the subject will very shortly be announced.

THE RIGHT THING.

PORTLAND, Ogn., March 17.—The citizens of Portland, in a mass meeting, assembled, resolved that "it is our duty to uphold law and order in this community, that we will sustain and aid the legal authorities in maintaining them, and will obtain and sustain the fundamental principle of liberty and justice for all men, and the founders of the Republic; that man has an alienable right to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and that these are rights of which no one can unlawfully be deprived; that we will not allow anyone to be prevented, through violence or intimidation, from working for a livelihood or be driven from house or home; that we pledge our means, and, if necessary, our lives, to uphold these principles, and will not allow anyone to come to bring condign punishment on any and all who may be found engaged in riotous and unlawful conduct."

THE LABOR WAR.

NO STRIKE STRIKES THIS WEEK, BUT NO SETTLEMENTS.—THE MISSOURI PACIFIC STRIKE STILL GOING ON.—FRESH COMPLICATIONS.

There has only been two strikes of any importance during the week, that of 500 rolling mills hands at Pittsburgh, and 500 miners along the Baltimore, Ohio and Pittsburgh line. But, on the other hand, there has been no strike of any worth mentioning, and the number of men out of employment has increased instead of diminished. In Toronto the breach between the car drivers and the Company has been widening, and there is some fear of another strike there. The carpenters in that city are looking for a nine-hour system this summer, and the working bakers want a substantial increase of wages. On the other hand, a couple of small squabbles have been settled in Canada amicably.

The great

READABLE PARAGRAPHS

MILLIONS SQUANDERED.—A miserable sensation has been caused in the social and financial circles of the metropolis by the appointment of a Curator or Counsel Judiciale to Raymond Sellière, a member of the well-known family of bankers and army contractors. The fact that the Curator is a Frenchman, and that prodigality is a peculiarity of French character, has been adopted or inherited from the Roman law, and is being squandered his money and the money of his family in the most extravagant manner. He is allowed to apply to the law courts for the administration of his fortune and to employ it as an advocate or solicitor. No matter how large his fortune may be, he is allowed to employ it as he pleases, and he may contract a recoverable unless the Curator has sanctioned it. In the case of M. Raymond Sellière the application, which was made on the 12th inst., was for the sum of £430,000. The fact that within 12 years he had run through a fortune of 12,000,000*fr.* (£430,000), and in addition contracted losses of £1,000,000, has not deterred him. One of the reasons advanced for the application was that he was overpowered on the plea that the law was made solely to enable M. Sellière to evade the force of his debts. The court, however, refused the application. M. Raymond Sellière is now aged 40. *Paris Dispatch to the London Standard.*

at your difficulty. You say that you are trying to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but cannot. What is it that you cannot believe? Perhaps if we can separate that which you do believe from that which you do not believe, we will be able to treat your difficulties more intelligently. Do you mind answering me candidly a few questions touching your lack of ability to believe?"

"I will be pleased to answer any question can for I am very anxious to be saved."

"Well, then, we will try and see what you do believe. Do you believe that Jesus Christ came into the world, some two thousand years ago?"

"Oh! yes; I believe that, of course."

"You are not in the least doubtful upon that point?"

"Not in the least, sir."

"Then you are not 'trying to believe' on 'at point'?"

"No, sir."

"And do you believe that he was the Son (God)?"

"Oh! yes, sir. I am not in doubt there in the least. I fully believe that he was God's only Begotten Son, just as the Bible says."

"Very well. Now, do you believe that

the mission house on Palm Island, to find roof off. There I set to work and repaired so, with the students, put a wall of coral blocks and a roof of thatch. In the process, we changed the lot from a garden, to that of a garden. I then began to the Kelung chapel of stone, and now it is finished, it entirely in seven weeks. Substantial and beautiful. I am beginning at other places.

One of which you will never know, I succeeded in getting \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) from the Chinese Government, through the Hon. Consul A. Frater, Esq., stood by me. The Chinese General never doubted word—never once said I made an unjust claim. The money I deposited with the Mandarin. The money I deposited with the Mandarin, and will be used solely and entirely for building chapels. Mr. Jamieson not having had much experience in building matters, the whole of the fall of 1901, I was busy with the building, nearly all the time. The typhoon did damage to the chapel on the east coast.

L. McCAV.

I hope the last sentence, I hope that of our Lord will remember what I have done—prayer and funds. The \$10,000 will erect the chapels destroyed by the mob on

"GO NORTH, YOUNG MAN" *Union*

W. DEWART, in the Rochester (N.Y.) *Union*, deals with the fallacy that man can change from one climate to another with impunity. That there is a difference in climate between the northward and changing southward, he admits; pointing out that the Visigoths and other northern races who over-ran Italy, died out long ago, and that the Saxons and Angles who came from France to England, are still surviving in full vigor. A still more striking instance is flord by our own country. Mr. Dewart says:

"Though Lower Canada is a much colder country than France, the colony once started there became firmly established, while numerous French colonies started in southern latitudes, have failed and now are no more. The only exception, Lower Canada is the only really successful colony ever established by France. When white people emigrate southward there is a tendency to degenerate, and the race dies out in a few generations. The very opposite is the case in Lower Canada, large families being far more common than small families among French-

to have somebody like you, but then I see I ain't never had no friends," said Ralph was right, after all," said Dick scornfully, "I've tried to do Joe good, poor fellow, but now I can pray for him."—*Christian* *Week*.

* * *

FUZZLES.

CHARADE (partly phonetic).

1st is a being you often have seen;
2d is a serious aspect and changeable mien;
3d you need not know, as truly behold,
4th others may look without payment of gold;
5th is a thing undeniably, sure,
6th for by use mine, by the rich and the poor;
7th is positive—relates in a way
8th I mentioned—this much will I say,
9th here is a thing that weighs its weight
10th and the wealth of the world and the laws of
11th State.

ENIGMA.

1st is a proverb of 19 letters
2d, 13, 3, 4, 2, is a place in which public assembly
3d, 11, 8, 18, is a luminary.
4d, 15, 17, 7, is a place to be avoided.
5d, 1, 20, 2, 16, is shrouded by darkness.
6d, 14, 10, 6, is a word of deterrence.
7d, 8, 18, every boy loves.

ERRATA.

2. It promotes habits of industry and economy in that it provides an immediate and worthy use of surplus money. Other things being equal, he is most careful in money matters who acts on the principle of giving away all he can spare.

3. It provides against being deprived, through losses, of the privilege of giving at the close of life.

4. It insures, in the main, a wise selection of charity, on the ground that a person in active life moving in the world, is more likely to weigh accurately the claims of an object than he near the close of his days, after having retired from business.

5. It prevents a man from becoming too much inclined to pride himself in his earning power, and gives him a wider interest while living in the great objects of benevolence; and thus it has a tendency, to say nothing of the joy of constant giving, to lift the soul out of self and bring it near to the Giver of the "unspeakable Gift."—*Leeds, in Advance.*

A WORSHIPER PREACHER thus succinctly defines atheism, infidelity, and Christianity: The atheist says: "No God." The theist says: "A God." The Christian says: "My

NEVER SAVED MEANWHILE.

WIFE. FORTHEBETTER. "Is there much money to be made out of grand opera?" Operatic Manager. "A deal more out of it than in it, I should judge, in my experience."

DAMNED. HAS FRAMED THE VERDICT A JURY GAVE IN HER FAVOR IN A SUIT FOR BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE, AND HUNG IT CONSPICUOUSLY IN HER PARLOR AS A FRIGHTENING WARNING TO ALL TRIFLERS.—*Ex.*

ALL IS AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT IN THE COMPOSITION WRITING INK.—*Scientific Ex.* Also in the composition of the users of writing ink.

SAVE A TIME AND PLACE FOR EVERYTHING, AND DO NOTHING IN ITS TIME AND PLACE, AND YOU WILL NOT ONLY OBLIVIOUS MORE, BUT HAVE FAR MORE LEISURE THAN THE OTHERS ARE ALWAYS HURRYING, AS IF IN VAIN ATTEMPTING TO TAKE TIME THAT HAD BEEN LOST.—*Edwarda.*

THOU HAST DONE A WRONG OR AN INJURY TO ANOTHER, THEN ACKNOWLEDGE AND ENDEAVOR TO REPAIR, THAN TO DENY IT. ONE WAY THOU GAINEST FORGIVENESS, THE OTHER THOU DECEIBEST THE WRONG AND RECKONING.—*Sam Penn.*

NONPAROLE'S ACID PHOSPHATE AS A NERVE FOOD.—*Dr. Wm. Smith, Wellington, O., 1898:* "In impaired

